

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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TAGS: SENV, UNEP

SUBJECT: UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TOLBA POLLING MEMBERS OF GC/IV
BUREAU RE CALLING SPECIAL SESSION OF GOVERNING COUNCIL

1. IN A LENGTHY MEETING WITH PERMREPS AND FOCAL POINTS
HELD AT UNEP HEADQUARTERS JULY 15, EXDIR TOLBA REPORTED
ON HIS RECENT TRAVELS AND CONSULTED "THE FRIENDS OF UNEP"
ON THE ADVISABILITY OF CALLING A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE
GOVERNING COUNCIL IN CONNECTION WITH CERTAIN PROBLEMS HE
HAS IDENTIFIED IN REPLYING TO THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S
REQUEST THAT HE PREPARE A DOCUMENT ON THE FINANCIAL
IMPLICATION OF THE VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES FOR THE ORGANIZATION
OF HABITAT. HE STATED THAT A WORKING PAPER ON FINANCIAL
IMPLICATIONS ON THE ALTERNATIVE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS
WAS REQUESTED BY A RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE HABITAT CONFERENCE
ON THE PROPOSAL OF THE SOVIET UNION. TWO PROBLEMS
WHICH SEEM TO CONCERN DR. TOLBA RELATE A) TO THE THREE
POSITIONS IN UNEP SERVICING THE UN HABITAT AND HUMAN
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SETTLEMENTS FOUNDATION WHICH ARE CURRENTLY LOCATED IN

UNEP AND FUNDED BY THE ENVIRONMENT FUND. TOLBA WOULD PREFER TO SEEK THE ADVICE OF THE GC PRIOR TO AGREEING TO THE TRANSFER TO ANOTHER ORGANIZATION; AND B) THE OTHER CONCERN ABOUT WHICH HE SEEKS GC ADVICE RELATES TO THE MONIES ALREADY VOTED BY THE GC FROM THE ENVIRONMENT FUND TO THE FOUNDATION AND TO HUMAN SETTLEMENT PROGRAM AND ABOUT WHICH HE THINKS HE NEEDS GC ADVICE IN VIEW OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE FOUNDATION MAY BE MOVED TO ANOTHER ORGANIZATION.

2. TOLBA REQUESTED THE ADVICE OF THE PERMREPS AS "FRIENDS OF UNEP" AND NOT AS REFLECTIONS OF THE OFFICIAL VIEWS OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS. IF HE ANTICIPATED "FRIENDLY ADVICE" SUPPORTIVE OF HIS POSITION THAT A MEETING IS DESIRABLE, HE DID NOT GET IT. PARTICIPANTS WHO SPOKE UP (USSR, PHILIPPINES, ARGENTINA, FRG, UK, SUDAN AND US) WERE UNANIMOUS IN ADVISING HIM TO STICK TO A FACTUAL AND TECHNICAL STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS LEAVING IT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO DETERMINE THE POLICY ISSUES. BUT THAT IF NECESSARY, HE COULD POSE ALTERNATIVE POSSIBILITIES AND ATTACH THE COSTS OF EACH. SEVERAL SPEAKERS EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT A SPECIAL GC SESSION MIGHT GET INTO ISSUES OF POLICY WHICH WERE THE PROVINCE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

3. AFTER A LENGTHY DISCUSSION, DR. TOLBA INDICATED THAT HE WAS CONTINUING TO POLL THE MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU OF UNEP AT THE REQUEST OF THE PRESIDENT OF GC/IV, MR. FRANCISCO VIZCAINO MURRAY ON THE DESIRABILITY OF A SPECIAL SESSION AND THAT IF THE BUREAU AGREED, HE WOULD BE SOON CONSULTING MEMBER GOVERNMENTS. HE NOTED THAT IN ADDITION TO THE PRESIDENT, THE FIRST TWO VICE-PRESIDENTS, MRS. LEMA OF ZAIRE AND MR. RACHWARTONO OF INDONESIA HAD ALREADY AGREED ON THE DESIRABILITY OF A MEETING. THE TWO REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU ARE MR. RAKONCZAL OF HUNGARY AND THOMAS PALME OF SWEDEN.

4. UNDER RULE 5 (2B) OF GC RULES OF PROCEDURE A SPECIAL SESSION MAY BE REQUESTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE GC WITH THE CONCURRENCE OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BUREAU OF THE GC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND IN CONSULTATION WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MUST INFORM MEMBERS OF THE GC OF THE REQUEST AS WELL AS THE APPROXIMATE COSTS AND RELEVANT ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATIONS, AND SHALL INQUIRE WHETHER THEY CONCUR. A MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS MUST CONCUR WITHIN 21 DAYS BEFORE THE SPECIAL SESSION CAN BE CALLED. AS A RESULT OF THE REACTIONS AT THE JULY 15 MEETING, TOLBA CANNOT BE SANGUINE THAT A MAJORITY FOR THE SPECIAL SESSION WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

ON THE OTHER HAND, HE STATED THAT EVERY COUNTRY HE VISITED SUPPORTED THE IDEA WITH THE EXCEPTION OF CANADA, UK, AND US. COUNTRIES HE HAS VISITED INCLUDED SPAIN, YUGOSLAVIA, GHANA, IVORY COAST AND LIBYA. WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK, (PRIOR AUGUST 9) HE WILL VISIT SWITZERLAND, POLAND AND EGYPT.

5. PERMREP ASSUMES DEPARTMENT WILL WISH TO DISCOURAGE HOLDING SPECIAL SESSION. WE UNDERSTAND FROM SWEDISH EMBASSY FOCAL POINT THAT PALME HAS NOT YET RESPONDED TO EXDIR ON THE SUBJECT.

DECON 8/1/76.

MARSHALL

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